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Right of peoples to self-determination

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 23 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba to mark the one-year anniversary of the unconditional release in the United States of America of the notorious international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, which will fall on 8 May 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 69, 86 and 108 and as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-32282 (E) 300408 300408

Annex to the letter dated 23 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba

16 April 2008

On 8 May 2008 it will be one year since the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles was unconditionally released in the United States.

Judge Kathleen Cardone handed down that ruling, dismissing the charges brought against Posada by the Government of the United States. The terrorist had been accused only of having committed fraud and having lied to Immigration and Customs Enforcement authorities in order to obtain naturalization in the United States. At the time, Judge Cardone stated that "[t]he realm of this case is not [...] terrorism. It is immigration fraud. Terrorism, and the determination of whether or not to classify an individual as a terrorist, lies within the sound discretion of the executive branch".

The United States Government has not charged Posada for his acts of terrorism, even though it has all the evidence arising from its long-standing relationship with him, as well as the evidence that Cuba has been providing since 1998.

Paradoxically, it was Judge Cardone herself who, in one of her initial rulings, highlighted the fact that Posada is a dangerous terrorist and even listed some of the many crimes committed by this malevolent individual.

Judge Cardone noted that Posada participated in some of the most abhorrent acts of the last century. The long list includes the Iran-Contra scandal, the downing of Cubana de Aviación flight 455, the bombing of tourist sites in Havana in 1997 and the planned assassination of the Commander-in-Chief in Panama in 2000.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns the complicit failure of the United States Government to act and the protection afforded to Luis Posada Carriles by the Administration of President George W. Bush.

Although it persists in styling itself as the leader of its self-proclaimed "war on terror", the United States Government continues to ignore the request for Posada's extradition, which was submitted on 15 June 2005 by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

President George W. Bush refuses to try Posada for what he really is — a terrorist — thereby blatantly violating his own legislation and his international obligations and demonstrating, once again, his personal commitment to Miami's Cuban-American mafia.

The release of the terrorist and former Central Intelligence Agency operative shows that his pedestrian trial in the United Nations is a farce.

The ridiculous and shameful efforts by the prosecution service to delay, on repeated occasions, the immigration fraud case amount to dilatory legal tactics

designed to impede the delivery of justice, which, in this case, has been postponed for an extraordinary length of time.

Those efforts are in stark contrast to the aggressive attitude of the same prosecution service when dealing with the case of our Five Heroes, anti-terrorist crusaders, some of whom were sentenced to life imprisonment during a dubious trial held before a biased court in Miami.

Meanwhile, the terrorist's legal team has been granted numerous extensions to pursue the endless immigration case, which carries no guarantee of a penalty, however minimal, for the released terrorist.

The terrorists Santiago Álvarez, Osvaldo Mitat and Ernesto Abreu have received equally lenient treatment. On 11 February 2008, Judge David Briones sentenced them to 10, 8 and 2 months' imprisonment, respectively, for having refused to testify against Posada after having brought him illegally to the United States on board the vessel *Santrina*.

The same thing happened with his accomplices, Rubén López Castro and José Pujol, who, on 17 March 2008, were sentenced by Judge Cardone on the same grounds to 10 and 3 months' imprisonment and fines of $500 and $250, respectively.

The peaceful life led by the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles in Miami, under the protection of the United States Government, is yet another item on the long list of abuses, violations and atrocities for which the Bush Administration will be remembered.

How could we forget the secret kidnapping of individuals all over the world and the sanction of torture, all on the pretext of the fight against terrorism?

With only nine months of its term remaining, it is becoming clear that the legacy of this Administration in the fight against terrorism will be hypocrisy and the lack of political will to combat that phenomenon if doing so does not benefit North American political interests.

The impunity guaranteed to Luis Posada Carriles by the United States Government is further evidence that our nation needs to defend itself against anti-Cuban terrorism originating from and funded by that country.

On 12 September 2008, our Five Heroes will have been unjustly and cruelly detained for 10 years in United States prisons for having fought against terrorism.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirms that the Cuban people will continue to demand that the criminal be brought to justice.

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Letter dated 28 April 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Since certain baseless allegations were made against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the representative of the United States at today's meeting of the Security Council on Iraq, I wish to bring to your attention the position of my delegation on the said unfounded allegations, as contained in the annex to this letter.

I should be grateful if you would bring the content of this letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council, and circulate it as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Mehdi **Danesh-Yazdi**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

08-32156 (E) 290408

Annex to the letter dated 28 April 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Response by the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the allegations made against Iran by the representative of the United States at the Security Council meeting on Iraq on 28 April 2008

The Security Council heard, today, certain unfounded allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the representative of the United States. Since the format of the meeting of the Security Council did not allow us to express our views on the said allegations by making a statement at the Council's meeting, we wish to bring the following to your esteemed attention and that of the Council members:

We reject the groundless allegations made against Iran by the said representative at today's meeting of the Council. It is not the first time that the international community is witness to the United States baseless allegations and even its fabrication of so-called evidence against other nations, in order to pursue certain ill-intended and politically motivated national goals. To date the United States has not ever come up with any single piece of reliable evidence that would corroborate its claims against Iran — simply because there is no such evidence and because these allegations are totally unfounded.

Iran has, time and again, condemned all acts of violence and terrorism in Iraq. It has strongly condemned the attacks on the Green Zone where the Iraqi Government's offices and diplomatic missions are located, as it has condemned the attacks on residential areas in Iraq, including those in Sadr City and Basra. Iran has also unambiguously supported the Iraqi Government's efforts against outlaw gangs in the country. Iran has itself been subject to terrorism and suffered from terrorist acts committed in and originating from Iraq, due to the tacit and explicit support by the United States Government extended to certain terrorist groups stationed and operating in that country.

Undoubtedly, as an immediate neighbour, Iran stands to benefit highly from stability, security and prosperity in Iraq, as it will immensely suffer from insecurity and instability in that country. Iran's best interest lies in a democratic and prosperous Iraq at peace with itself and with its neighbours. The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken significant steps at the highest level to strengthen partnership and cooperation with Iraq. As is mentioned in the latest report of the Secretary-General, Iran's President is the highest ranking official from the region who has visited Iraq to promote the friendly and brotherly relations that so happily exist between our two countries. We have already implemented many short-term and long-term programmes aimed at promoting economic cooperation between the two countries in the areas of development, energy, education, health, industry, transportation, investment, trade, tourism, financing and so forth, and are actively in the process of implementing more such projects. Iran has also pledged $10 million to Iraq's Reconstruction Fund, while a line of credit of $1 billion has also been allocated to cover the implementation of economic plans.

Iran's support to the Iraqi political process and its efforts to assist Iraqis in their quest for peace, national harmony and reconstruction has been unabated and will remain unreserved.

In view of the above and given Iran's constructive and transparent policies and practices towards Iraq, it is ridiculously false to suggest that the Islamic Republic of Iran would take any steps that would contribute to the insecurity in Iraq. It is not the first time that the United States Government maliciously insists on demonizing Iran for Iraq's problems in a futile effort to obfuscate the real sources of the instability in Iraq — that is the continuation of foreign occupation and certain wrong policies and practices on the part of the occupying forces. Instead of scapegoating others for United States policy failures in Iraq, the United States Government should address its own wrong policies and practices in the country in an honest and sincere manner, and desist from deceiving its own public opinion and that of the international community.